

CLAIMS:

1. A method of detecting a boundary of a content item in a digital video stream, the method comprising the steps of:
 - determining (130) an average bit rate of the video stream over a period of time, and
 - 5 - detecting (140) a change of the average bit rate indicating the boundary of the content item.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the content item is in a digital broadcast video stream.
- 10 3. The method of claim 1, comprising the steps of:
 - detecting (125) shot-cuts in the content item, and
 - adjusting (126) the period of time to the detected shot-cuts.
- 15 4. The method of claim 1, wherein a moving average of the bit rate is determined.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the content item is a commercial.
- 20 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the digital video stream is MPEG-compressed.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the content item is in an encrypted digital video stream.
- 25 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
 - obtaining broadcast schedule data indicating a beginning and/or end of broadcasting at least one content item,

- verifying whether said broadcast schedule data are in accordance with the detected boundary of a respective content item in the video stream.

9. The method of claim 1, further comprising a step (150) of determining a
5 position of the detected boundary of the content item within a corresponding period of time.

10. A device for detecting a boundary of a content item in a digital video stream, the device comprising:

- means (410) for determining an average bit rate of the video stream over a
10 period of time,
- means (420) for detecting a change of the average bit rate indicating the boundary of the content item.

11. A receiver for receiving at least one content item in a digital broadcast video
15 stream, comprising the device as claimed in claim 10.

12. A video recorder for recording at least one TV program, comprising:

- a receiver (430) for receiving at least one TV program in a digital video stream,
- 20 - the device as claimed in claim 10 in which the content item is the TV program, and
- means (440) for recording the TV program based on its detected boundary in the video stream.

25 13. A computer program product enabling a programmable device when executing said computer program product to function as the device as claimed in claim 10.